Rainbow Falls Provincial Park

Management Plan

Ontario
Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles
Lyn McLeod Minister/Ministre

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APPROVAL STATEMENT

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park is a recreation class park located on the north shore of Lake Superior just off of Provincial Highway 17. The park consists of a substantial campground and day use facility situated on Whitesand Lake, which includes the set of cascades from which the park gets it name. The Rossport Campground located right on the Lake Superior shoreline is also part of Rainbow Falls Provincial Park.

The park functions as a convenient stop-over for visitors to the area who are enjoying the tremendous scenery and rugged dominance of the north shore of Lake Superior. Some stop just for a hike down the Falls trail or a picnic lunch on the lake shore. Others may stay over a night or two; do some fishing for lake trout or walleye, or make a visit into the village of Rossport. The park also serves the residents of the communities of Schreiber and Terrace Bay for summertime vacations, day-use recreation, and cross country skiing in wintertime.

We are pleased to approve the Rainbow Falls Provincial Park Management Plan, as official policy for the management and development of this park. The plan reflect's this Ministry's intent to protect the natural and cultural features of Rainbow Falls Provincial Park and maintain and develop the high quality opportunities for outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation for both residents of Ontario and visitors to the Province.

G.P. Elliott
Regional Director
North Central Region

N. R. Richards
Director
Parks and Recreational Areas Branch

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park Management Plan - Summary

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park is classified as a Recreation Provincial Park, and is located along the Trans Canada Highway 17, west of Schreiber. It encompasses 569 hectares along the western shores of Whitesand Lake and 6.6 hectares along Lake Superior.

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park provides protection and representation of the natural beauty found in this portion of the north shore of Lake Superior. The key features are the series of cascading waterfalls for which the park is named, the beaches and the scenic lookouts. Three historic sites have been identified at Rossport Campground.

The park serves as a convenient rest-stop or overnight camping spot for highway travellers. Rainbow Falls Provincial Park has the capability to provide 52,000 camper nights and 4,800 day use opportunities annually. Present use is approximately 22,000 to 27,000 camper nights and 1,800 to 2,200 day use opportunities annually.

Two zones have been identified for the park. The Development Zone includes all of Rossport Campground and the portion of the main park area adjacent to Highway 17, east of the Hewitson River and surrounding the narrow bay of Whitesand Lake. Existing development is located in this zone. Opportunities for moderately intensive recreation will be provided. The Natural Environment Zone includes the remaining lands and waters of the park. Opportunities for nature appreciation and low-intensity day use recreation supported by minimal development will be provided.

Rainbow Falls will be managed according to Provincial Park policy. There will be no commercial extraction of the natural resources from within the park. The natural resources will be managed to protect park values and for public health and safety. An archeological survey is recommended for the three historic sites at Rossport Campground.

The Park Operating Plan provides direction for the operation of the park. A Marketing Plan will be developed, emphasizing increased use of the park and maximizing local tourism economic benefits. Private commercial facilities located near the park will be encouraged to continue providing services to the public. Visitor Services will focus on the recreational potential of the park and surrounding area.

Protection of the park's recreational environment is a key concern. Park re-development will separate day use and campers. The Back-40 boat launch will remain for access to cottages north of the park. Snowmobiling will be permitted along the main road to the west beach and on Whitesand Lake. Cross-country skiing opportunities will remain on the other park roads. Emphasis will be placed on maintenance to existing assets, revitalization of

park facilities and the provision of amenities in accordance with public needs.

Implementation of the plan will be accomplished through the annual allocation of human and fiscal resources. The Management Plan will be reviewed once every ten years or more often if required to address new issues.

The general public was advised of the intent to prepare a Management Plan for Rainbow Falls Provincial Park and had the opportunity to comment on the preliminary plan. The summary of public input is available at the Terrace Bay District Office of the Ministry Natural Resources.

Plan de question du parc provincial Rainbow Falls - sommaire

Le Parc Provincial Rainbow Falls est classé comme Parc Provincial reservé aux Loisirs et est situé le long de la route Transcanadienne 17, à l'ouest de Schreiber. Il couvre 569 hectares le long de la rive ouest du lac Whitesand et 6,6 hectares le long du rivage du lac Supérieur.

Le Parc Provincial Rainbow Falls protège et met en valeur la beauté de cette partie de la rive nord du lac Supérieur et ses principaux attraits sont la cascade qui a donné son nom au parc, ses plages et ses vues panoramiques. On compte aussi trois sites historiques dans le terrain de camping Rossport.

Le parc offre un arrêt pratique pour les voyageurs empruntant la grande-route puisqu'il peut accueillir 52 000 campeurs de nuit et 4 800 visiteurs de jour chaque année. Il recoit présentement de 22 000 à 27 000 campeurs de nuit et de 1 800 à 2 200 visiteurs de jour par an.

Le parc est divisé en deux zones. La première, appelée zone d'aménagement, comprend l'ensemble du terrain de camping Rossport et la partie de la zone principale du parc qui est adjacente à la route 17, à l'est de la rivière Hewitson et encerclant l'étroite baie du lac Whitesand. L'aménagement actuel est limité à cette zone où seront offertes des possibilités moyennes de loisirs. La seconde, appelée zone d'environnement naturel, comprend le reste des terres et eaux du parc; elle offre la possibilité d'apprécier la nature et des loisirs de jour de faible intensité appuyés par un aménagement minimal.

Le parc Rainbow Falls sera géré selon les politiques régissant les Parcs Provinciaux. On ne s'y livrera à aucune extraction commerciale des ressources naturelles et celles-ci seront gérées afin de protéger les valeurs du parc et la santé et la sécurité du public. On recommande aussi des recherches archéologiques aux trois sites historiques du terrain de camping Rossport.

Le plan d'exploitation du parc donne des directives pour son exploitation. Un Plan de Commmercialisation sera dressé, visant à accroître l'utilisation du parc et à maximiser les avantages économiques offerts par le tourisme. On invitera les installations commerciales privées avoisinantes à continuer à offrir leurs services au public. Les services aux visiteurs porteront essentiellement sur les possibilités récréatives du parc et de la région.

../2.

La protection de l'environnement récréatif du parc est une préoccupation majeure. Le réaménagement du parc séparera les zones récréatives de jour et de nuit. La rampe de mise à l'eau Back-40 restera au même endroit pour faciliter l'accès aux chalets situés au nord du parc. On autorisera l'utilisation des motoneiges le long de la route principale vers la plage ouest et sur le lac Whitesand.
On pourra pratiquer le ski de fond sur les autres routes du parc. On insistera sur le maintien des avantages actuels, la remise en valeur des installations du parc et les services au public.

On mettra en oeuvre le plan en allouant chaque année des ressouces humaines et financières. Le plan de gestion sera revu tous les dix ans ou plus souvent si de nouvelles questions se présentent.

Le public a été avisé de l'intention de dresser un Plan de Gestion pour le Parc Provincial Rainbow Falls et il a pu offrir des commentaires sur son ébauche. On peut consulter le sommaire de ces commentaires au bureau de District du Ministère des Richesses Naturelles de Terrace Bay.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park is located on the north shore of Lake Superior between Schreiber and Rossport.(see Figure 1) The larger portion of the two-component park occupies 569 ha on the western shores of Whitesand Lake in Killraine Township. The Rossport Campground occupies 6.6 ha of Lake Superior shore land. Both areas are immediately adjacent to the TransCanada Highway, Provincial Highway 17.

The present park area was first developed as Whitesand Park by the Rossport Conservation Club in 1951. In recognition of its local and tourism related recreational opportunities, the area was turned over to the Department of Lands and Forests in 1959. Rainbow Falls Provincial Park was formally established in 1960, and regulated in 1963 (O. Reg. 117/63).

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park provides protection and representation of the natural beauty found in this portion of the north shore of Lake Superior. The key features and amenities in this provincial park are the series of zig-zag cascades for which the park is named, the trails and scenic lookouts, and the beaches.

The park is fortunate to be able to offer both the experience of Lake Superior and the alternative of a warmer, inland lake suitable for family oriented water-based recreational opportunities.

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park is highly accessible to tourists travelling the Lake Superior circle route. It mainly serves as a convenient rest-stop or overnight stopping point for highway travellers. The park plays an active role in the support of local and area tourism. It is also an important recreational facility for area residents.

The Rainbow Falls Provincial Park management plan will provide direction for the management and development of the park over the next 20 years.

2.0 CLASSIFICATION

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park will continue to be classified as a recreation park, one of six classes of Ontario Provincial Parks.

Recreation Parks are areas which support a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities for large numbers of people in attractive surroundings.

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park provides an attractive land base complementary to many outdoor recreational pursuits. Figure 2 shows the setting of the park and the exisiting development. The park has good capability to continue to provide opportunities for both water-based and land related recreational activities. It is also physically well suited for the development of facilities and amenities appropriate to a recreation class park.

3.0 GOAL

To provide a variety of quality outdoor recreation opportunities among the scenic landscapes of the north shore of Lake Superior.

This goal is consistent with that provided in the *Ontario Provincial Parks; Planning and Management Policies* document, which guides park management in the province.

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park forms part of the Ontario Provincial Parks System as established through the Parks System Planning Program and contributes to the provincial park targets established in the *Terrace Bay District Land Use Guidelines.*

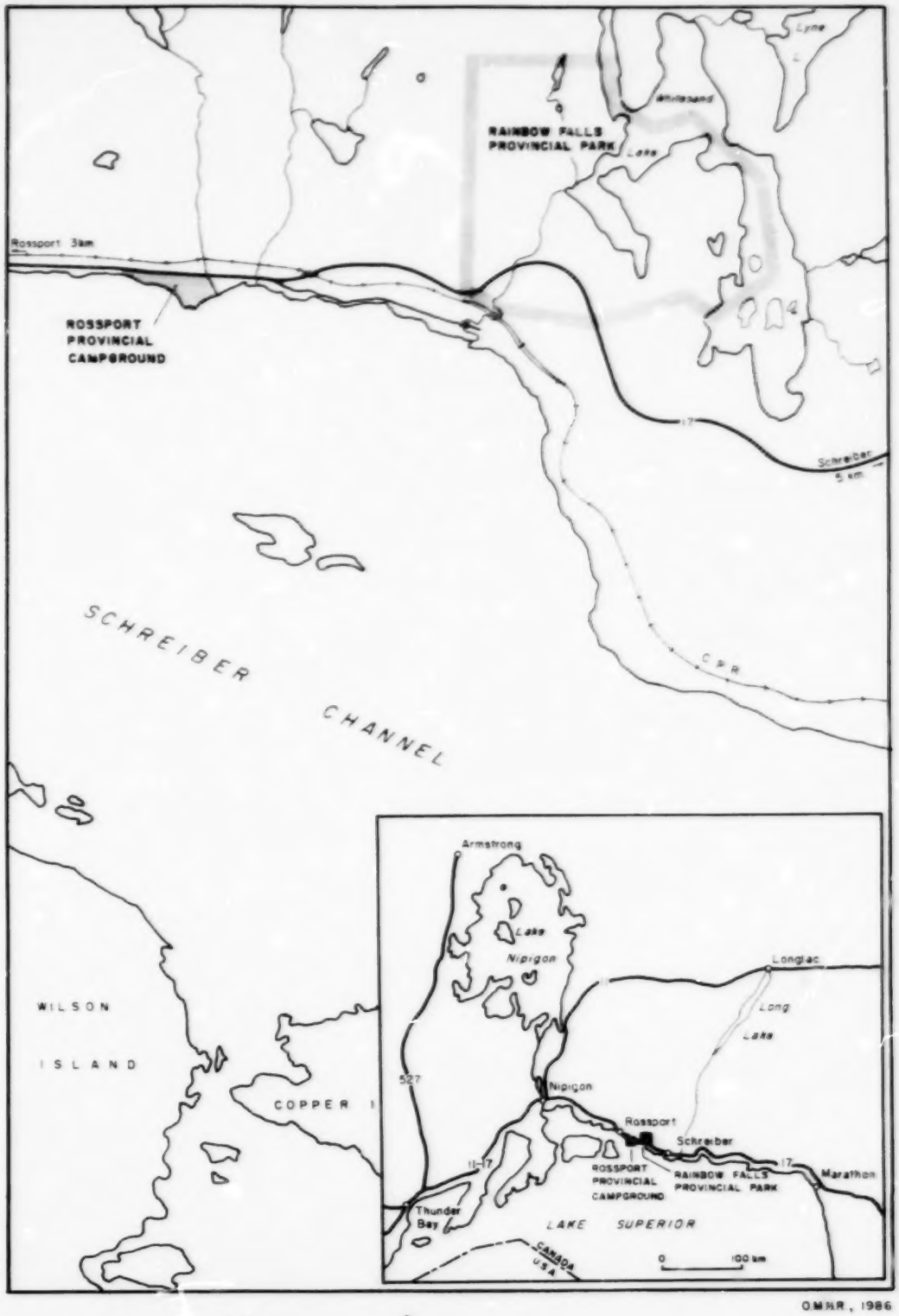
4.0 OBJECTIVES

There are four objectives of the Provincial Parks System: protection, recreation, heritage appreciation and tourism. Rainbow Falls Provincial Park will contribute principally to the achievement of the recreation, heritage appreciation, and tourism objectives.

Figure 1

RAINBOW FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK

Location



4.1 Protection

To protect the recreational environment and natural and historical resources of Rainbow Falls Provincial Park.

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park does not contribute significantly to the representation of natural and cultural features within the Provincial Parks System. However, the park is situated in an area of great natural beauty and three historical sites have been identified at Rossport Campground.

4.2 Recreation

To provide high quality day use and car camping opportunities and complementary recreational activities such as swimming, photography/ viewing, hiking, boating, fishing, canoeing and relaxation

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park will contribute to the achievement of the provincial park recreation targets established in the *Terrace Bay District Land Use Guidelines*. The park has the capability to provide 52,000 camper nights and 4,800 day use opportunities annually. At present, use is in the range of 22,000 to 27,000 camper nights and 1,800 to 2,200 day use opportunities annually.

The Casque-Isles section of the Voyageur Hiking Trail passes through the park. The park is often used as a home base for persons hiking this trail.

4.3 Heritage Appreciation

To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario by continuing to serve as an excellent location from which to explore the north shore of Lake Superior.

4.4 Tourism

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park will continue to serve as a convenient stopping point for both Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors. Increased emphasis will be placed on attracting additional visitors and increasing the visitor length of stay, in order to maximize the contribution of the park to the area economy.

The average local expenditure per campsite stay is over $58.00 (MNR Camper Survey, 1983), pointing to the fact that the park is an important component of the local tourism industry.

5.0 BOUNDARY AND LAND TENURE

The park presently surrounds one patent land holding, (Lot 23, Plan M-94A), on Whitesand Lake. This 0.56 hectare private cottage site is excluded from the park, (see Figure 2).

This parcel is important to the integrity of the park in order to control any future development that may conflict with park values. This property will be acquired when offered for sale if sufficient funds are available. The landholder will be asked to provide the park with the first-right-of-refusal should the property become available for sale.

The owner of the private cottage within the park will be provided access to that property during and beyond the park operating season.

6.0 ZONING

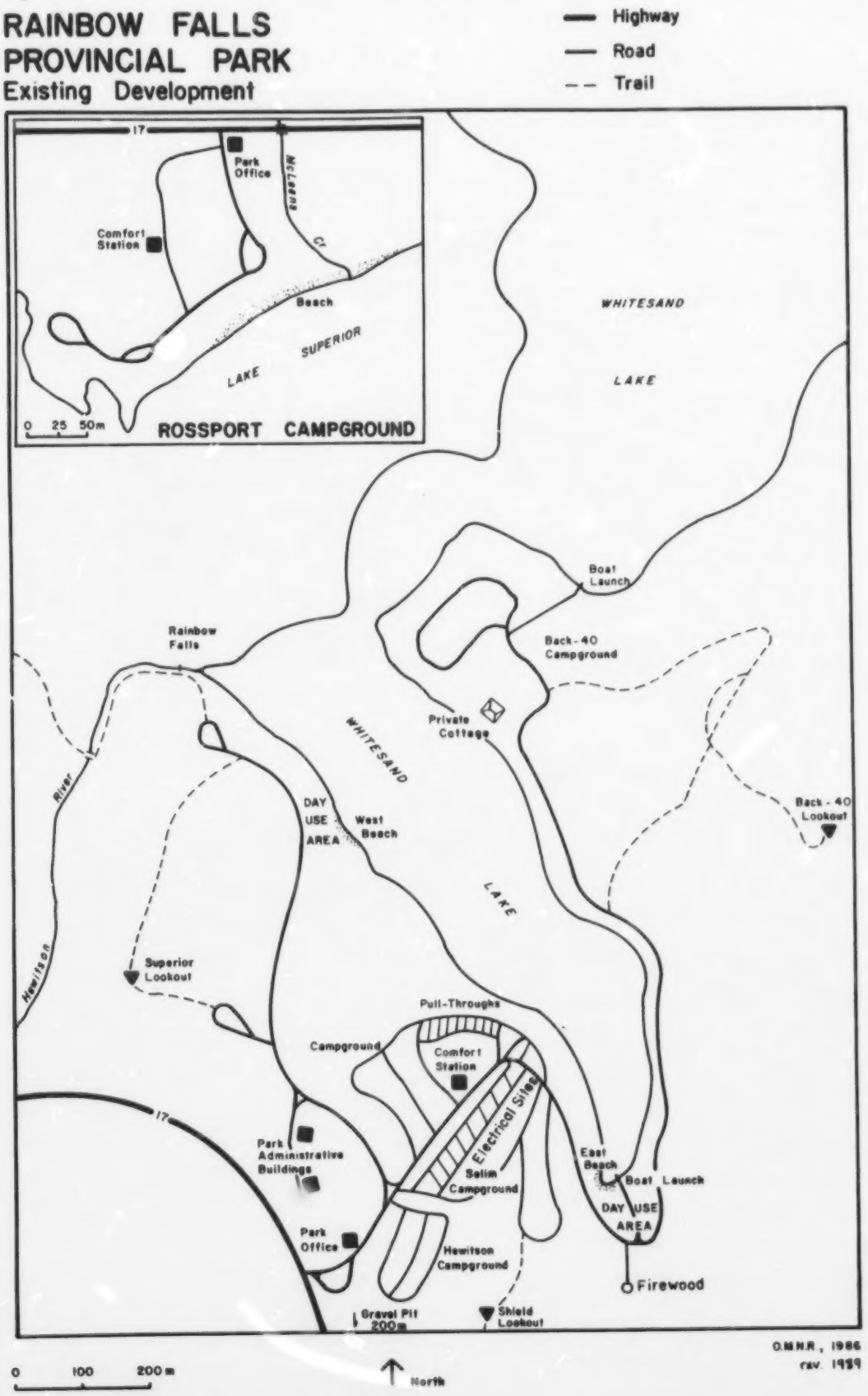
The lands and waters within Rainbow Falls Provincial Park have been zoned so that they may be allocated to their most appropriate use. These zones as shown in Figure 3 reflect a marked internal division of the park physiography and a corresponding variation in recreational potential and degree of development.

User activity and recreational facility development will continue to be concentrated in the development zone. The natural environment zone protects a representative landscape for Site District 5 in Site Region 3W. This zone will have minimal facility development as required to support less intensive recreation and heritage appreciation opportunities.

Figure 2

RAINBOW FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK

Existing Development



6.1 Development Zone (107.6 ha)

The development zone encompasses the Rossport Campground, (6.6 ha) and the portion of the main park area adjacent to Highway 17, east of the Hewitson River, and surrounding the narrow bay of Whitesand Lake on which the falls is situated, (101 ha).

This zone will provide opportunities for moderately intensive recreation, with the emphasis on car camping, day use, and related activities.

Existing development in this zone consists of campgrounds, day use areas, the park administrative complex, and a small gravel pit used solely for park purposes.

Vegetation management may be carried out in this zone in order to rehabilitate sites, ensure user safety, and provide an aesthetically pleasing environment.

Three small historical sites are included in the Rossport Campground portion of this zone. Measures will be taken to protect these locations. The management of these sites is discussed in section 7.6.

6.2 Natural Environment Zone (468 ha)

This zone, which includes the remaining land and waters of the park, will provide opportunities for nature appreciation and low-intensity day use recreation, supported by minimum development.

Existing development consists of some minor trails.

Extension of trails, and the installation of pit privies, if necessary, will be permitted.

7.0 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICIES

The management of the resources of Rainbow Falls Provincial Park will be in accordance with the recreation class park policies as set out in the document, *Ontario Provincial Parks - Planning and Management Policies*, and consistent with the stated park goal and objectives.

7.1 Fisheries Management

Angling for sport fish species is to be encouraged both within and outside of park waters. In addition to providing access and boat launch facilities, the brook trout stocking program is scheduled to continue.

Commercial fishing and bait fishing are not permitted.

7.2 Wildlife Management

Hunting and commercial trapping are not permitted.

The pond adjacent to the easternmost shore of the park will be accessed to provide additional wildlife viewing opportunities.

Nuisance animals will be controlled where it is essential for the protection of human health and safety, park values, or the health of the wildlife species outside of the park. Live trapping or drug injection will be the normal control measures used to capture and relocate the animal away from the area of encounters. In situations where these measures are not feasible or unsuccessful, the animal may have to be destroyed. Nuisance animal control measures will be carried out under strict supervision or directly by MNR staff.

7.3 Vegetation Management

Commercial forestry operations are not permitted.

Vegetation management may be carried out throughout the park as required to ensure visitor safety, maintain or improve aesthetics, or for site protection or rehabilitation purposes. In the development zone measures will be directed to reduce the susceptibility of the forest stands to insect damage and disease.

During insect epidemics and outbreaks of disease, control measures will only be instituted under exceptional circumstances, i.e. when the natural values of the park, or commercial timber values external to the park are seriously threatened. Where control is necessary, it will be directly applied to the specific targeted insect or disease so as to

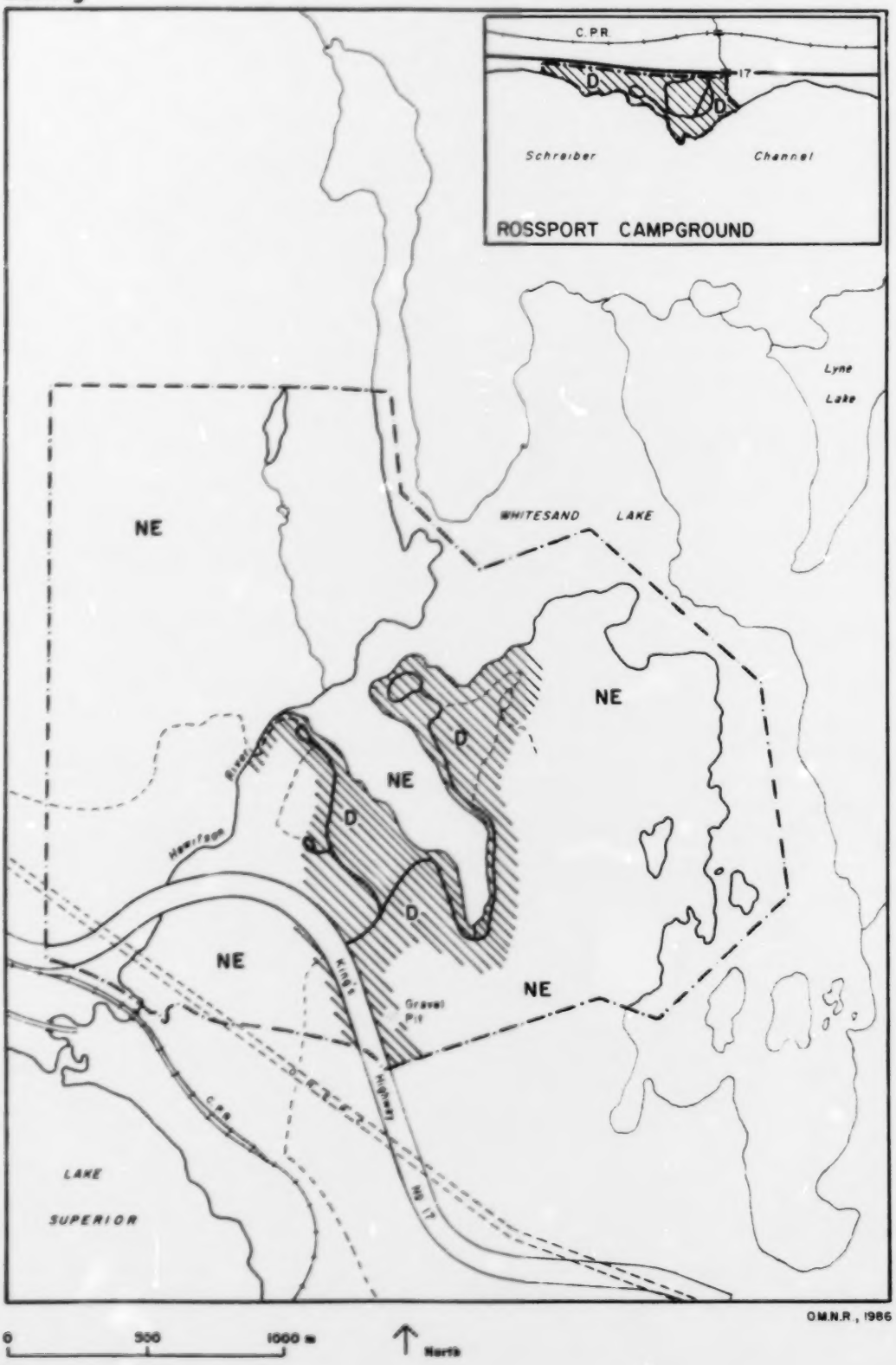
Figure 3

RAINBOW FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK

Zoning

D Development Zone

NE Natural Environment Zone



have minimal effects on other components of the park environment. Biological and physical controls will be used whenever feasible.

The removal of dead and diseased trees on trails or in campgrounds will be permitted as is deemed necessary for maintaining public safety.

The establishment of native plant and tree species will be undertaken to rehabilitate areas affected by erosion, compaction or other similar impacts.

7.4 Fire Management

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park is located in Intensive Fire Management Zone B as identified in the *Area Strategy for Fire Management - North Central Region,* Ministry of Natural Resources. The suppression of wildfires in this zone is a priority. Fire suppression techniques will be used which have minimal effect on the park environment.

7.5 Landform Management

Erosion control work to enhance park values and public safety will be undertaken to correct problems resulting from the development and use of park facilities. The lakefront adjacent to the campgrounds is a particular problem area.

Erosion prevention will be stressed through facility design and site planning measures. Ministry guidelines on erosion control measures will be consulted. Where problems are encountered impacted sites will be rehabilitated. Where necessary, controls may be imposed to prevent access or use of erosion prone areas, or sites undergoing rehabilitation.

The existing gravel pit will be gated and used for park maintenance and minor park development projects only. Progressive site rehabilitation will occur.

7.6 Cultural Resources Management

The management of cultural resources will be directed to protection, heritage appreciation and research.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will work in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and Communications (MCC) in the inventory and maintenance of any archaeological sites.

Persons interested in conducting archaeological research will require approval and be monitored by both the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Culture and Communications. Should provincially significant features or artifacts be found, a plan amendment may occur to ensure that protection will be granted through appropriate zoning or revision of plan policies.

An archaeological survey of Rossport Campground is recommended as a research project.

If deemed appropriate and necessary for the protection and preservation of cultural resources, excavations of archaeological sites may be permitted. Such excavations will be conducted under the supervision of the above-named Ministries by authorized licenced personnel with the appropriate research permits.

During excavation or as an ongoing activity, interpretation through visitor services programming is encouraged.

Upon completion of excavation, the site will be restored to its original condition Alternatively, the site or portions of the site may be developed and maintained for the purposes of interpreting the cultural resources inherent in the sites. The type and extent of such action will be determined by the findings from the excavation.

The Ministry of Culture and Communications has identified three historical sites within the Rossport Campground and has recommended appropriate management strategies for the sites which have been incorporated into this plan.

Two of these are small backshore habitation areas, considered important because of the concentration of artifacts and the scarcity of similar sites in the area. As these sites are being eroded by camping activities, they will be capped with a thick layer of neutral soil (sand), pending a comprehensive archaeo-

logical survey and subsequent recommendations for long-term site protection.

The third site is the mound-like feature centrally located in the campground, which resembles a Laurel Culture (200 A.D. ± 400 years) burial mound. Until origin and significance can be determined, the mound will be managed as an historical site.

8.0 OPERATIONS POLICIES

The Park Operating Plan provides park staff with information on the day to day operation of the park. In addition to addressing the operations policies which follow, the plan will include information and direction for budgeting, staffing, maintenance schedules, enforcement and emergency services. The Park Operating Plan will be consistent with the Ontario Provincial Park Operating Standards, and will be reviewed and updated annually.

8.1 Visitor Services

Emphasis will be placed on self-use approaches to deliver park information, resource interpretation, recreation skills and park management messages. Staff from Neys Provincial Park currently offer extension visitor services on a limited basis. It is planned that this program would continue subject to funding availability.

The recreational potential of the park and surrounding area will be a primary theme of visitor services programs, with interpretive themes playing a secondary role.

8.1.1 Information

A high quality public information service using print, audio visual and display media, organized programs and personal contact will furnish visitors with accurate information about the park resources. This service will provide information on park programs, attractions, facilities and regulations.

Information will also be made available to park visitors directing them to attractions and services outside the park to enrich their experiences and generate local tourism expenditures. Information will also be provided on other Provincial Parks to encourage visitors to broaden their park experiences.

8.1.2 Interpretation

Interpretive programming will generally be low-key, self-directed, and geared towards increasing the park visitor's appreciation of the natural, cultural and recreational features of the park and surrounding area. A secondary theme will focus on the features and objectives of the Schreiber Channel Provincial Nature Reserve.

As most park visitors are attracted to the Falls Trail the principal interpretive efforts will be directed to this area. A self-use trail system with associated signs and displays will be developed and maintained.

The Casque Isles Section of the Voyageur Hiking Trail will be promoted as a significant area resource for quality heritage appreciation opportunities. In conjunction with the Voyageur Trail Association, efforts will be made to produce an interpretive trail guide.

When available, visitor services programs and facilities will provide increased opportunities for heritage appreciation.

8.1.3 Recreation

Through direct contact and a variety of information media park visitors will be acquainted with the recreational attributes of the park and the skills required to best use and enjoy the park and local area.

Recreation programming will consist of organized activities aimed at bringing the park visitor in contact with the recreational features of the park. A sample list of activities would include canoe excursions, campfire programs, star gazing, and hikes.

Education and skills instruction will be provided to improve the park visitor's recreational experience, to acquaint the park visitors with recreational activities that are new to them, and to diminish destructive uses and encourage a conservation ethic. Examples of topics of instruction are canoeing and

hiking techniques, trip requirements, safe practices and emergency procedures, available camping equipment and sources of supply.

Complementary programs by outside associations such as the Ontario Provincial Police, the Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association, and wilderness survival instructors will be encouraged.

Special events such as fish derbies and sailboard days will be included in the recreation program.

Self-use facilities will be improved to provide the visitor with a means of better experiencing the park, occupying free time, and meeting fitness and play requirements.

In wintertime, cross-country skiing on the campground roads will be encouraged as a winter park activity. Appropriate temporary facilities for skiing may be permitted.

8.2 Research

Research which contributes to the knowledge of natural and cultural history, and to environmental and recreation management in the park will be encouraged. All research programs must be compatible with the park goal and objectives, and must receive prior approval and be conducted in accordance with the research policy directive. Research being conducted must also meet all other applicable provincial and federal government requirements and will be monitored by MNR staff.

8.3 Recreation Management

Recreational activities that are incompatible with the goal and objectives of the park will not be permitted. Protection of the recreational environment is a key concern.

The present layout of facilities in the Whitesand Lake development zone leads to mixed use by campers and day users. Park re-development will serve to separate the two user groups, thus minimizing traffic in the campground, while improving camper safety and campground management.

The Back-40 boat launch site will continue to be used for access to the cottages north of the park under a memorandum of understanding between the private cottagers and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Park visitors will utilize the ramp to be developed at the west beach/falls area.

Snowmobiling will be permitted only on the main park road leading to the west beach, and on Whitesand Lake. This will allow winter access to the private cottage within the park, the private cottages north of the park, as well as public access to Whitesand Lake. This use will not interfere with the cross-country skiing opportunities and will often provide a good walking path to the falls.

Aircraft landings will not be permitted.

Back-country camping will not be permitted within Rainbow Falls Provincial Park, but will be encouraged just outside the park on the Casque-Isles section of the Voyageur Hiking Trail.

8.4 Tourism Services

At present only limit services are offered which include canoe and other recreational equipment rental. Private commercial facilities operate on Highway 17, 3 km east of the park, and in Rossport, just west of the park. The proprietors will be encouraged to continue to offer the type and range of services looked for by park visitors.

A co-operative effort, involving the local municipalities, tourist organizations, and other government agencies, will be pursued to provide the greatest service and maximum economic benefits through the marketing and promotion of the park and other area tourist attractions and facilities.

Effort is currently underway to establish a primary area tourist information facility servicing the portion of the north shore of Lake Superior encompassing the communities of Rossport, Schreiber and Terrace Bay. The Ministry will continue to work in co-operation with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, regional tourism organizations, and the local municipalities to realize this development. and take the opportunity to

fulfill park promotion and marketing objectives.

8.5 Marketing

A marketing plan will be developed for the park in accordance with established Ministry policy and procedures, and consistent with the North Central Region Marketing Plan. It will be reviewed and updated annually.

The main marketing objectives are to increase use of the park, and maximize local tourism economic benefits. The primary target group will be persons travelling the Lake Superior circle tour.

Within the limits set by the physical capability and recreational use targets for the park, strategies to meet these objectives will be directed to:

- maintain present users and attract new users;
- encourage visits to area tourist attractions and use of local services;
- promote Rainbow Falls Provincial Park as a destination park.

Potential marketing methods include:

- the use of advertising, newsletters and media articles to alert groups and individuals to the park operating dates, services and features
- expanding recreational programs and facilities to meet user desires and needs
- making contact with travel tour companies to develop packages which include a stop at Rainbow Falls.

The Park Superintendent will co-operate with adjacent federal, provincial and private park operators to promote area tourism initiatives.

9.0 DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Since Rainbow Falls Provincial Park is an established and operating park, a major development program is not required. Emphasis will be placed on maintenance to established standards of existing park assets, replacement and revitalization of park facilities, and the provision of amenities in accordance with public needs.

The most significant developments will entail the upgrading and replacement of existing facilities and the provision of additional opportunities in the developed sector of the park, (see Figure 4).

All development within the park will be consistent with the park goal and help to achieve park objectives. The degree of development will reflect an appropriate balance between demand for and supply of car-camping and day use opportunities based on established targets, (assuming they remain valid).

Facilities will be developed during the twenty-year life of the management plan based on the implementation priorities outlined in section 10.0 and subject to the availability of funds as determined through work program planning. All development will be carried out in accordance with approved site and development plans which detail the location, form and extent of permitted development .

All new recreational facility development will be planned to provide access for disabled persons. The existing facilities will be renovated, where feasible, to provide this service.

9.1 Access and Circulation

The existing access and circulation pattern in the Rossport campground will be adjusted to accommodate day use area improvements. Roads in the Whitesand Lake portion of the park will be re-aligned to improve circulation, promote user safety, and to separate day use and camping activity.

Gravel parking spurs may be added to campsites as part of campground rehabilitation efforts.

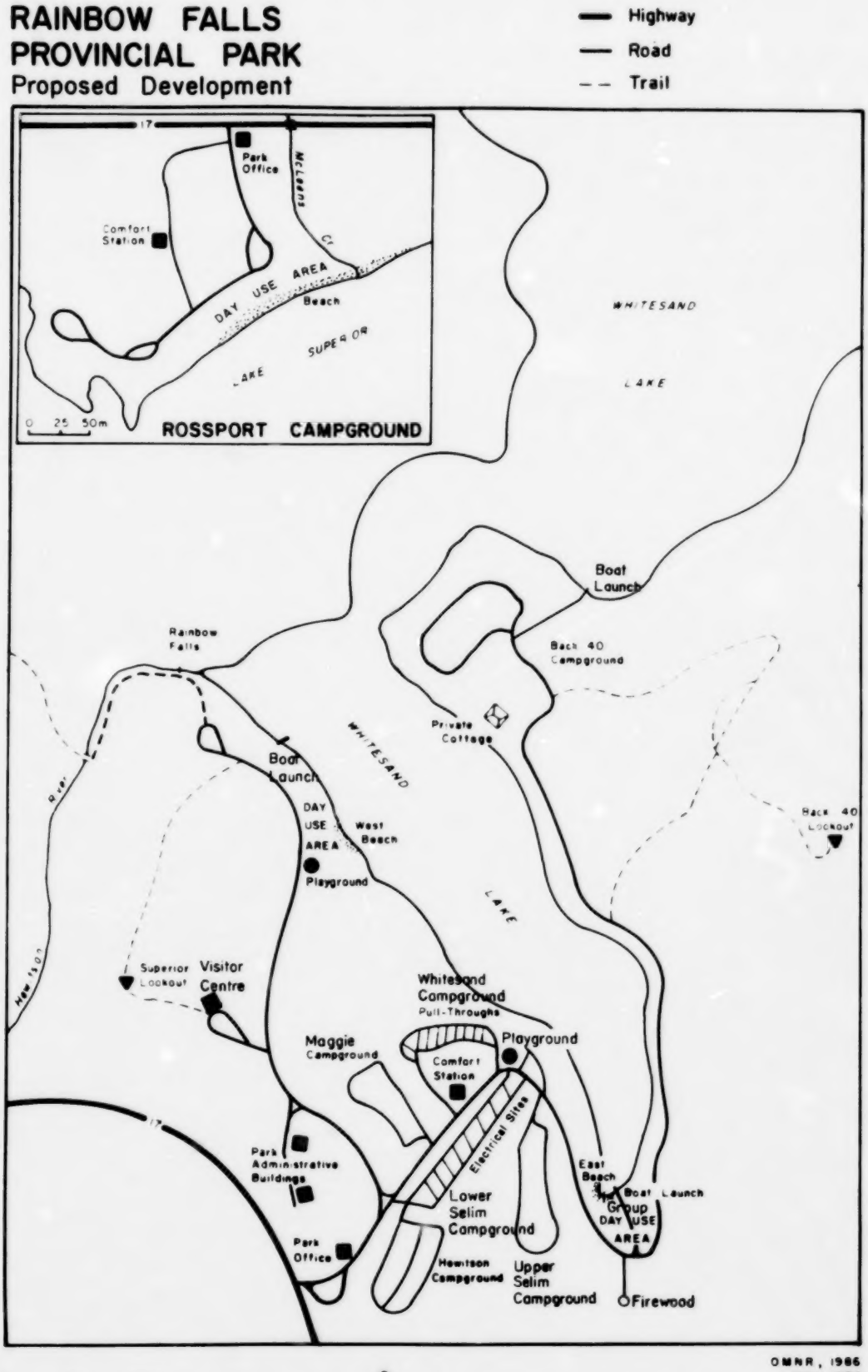
9.2 Campgrounds

Expansion of the campgrounds is not warranted. Management effort will be directed to maintain the existing campgrounds

Figure 4

RAINBOW FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK

Proposed Development



and provide new and improved facilities. The aim is to attract more visitors, enhance the quality of their stay, and have the Park operate more efficiently.

The main campgrounds will be developed and maintained in accordance with standards, in order to provide socially-oriented camping opportunities in close proximity to a complete range of amenities. If demand warrants, the Back-40 Campground may be re-opened and serve as an area for a less elaborate, nature-oriented type of experience.

Individual campsites may be closed, permanently or temporarily, to prevent site deterioration and permit rehabilitation, or to improve the quality of adjacent campsites through buffering. The percentage of campsites to be closed depends on the occupancy rate of the campsites in the past ten years of operations. An assessment of the rate of occupancy of various sites is recommended to determine the number of campsites to be closed.

Improvements to the day use area in the Rossport Campground will necessitate the closure of a few campsites.

9.3 Day use Areas

Development in the day use areas of the Whitesand and Rossport portions of the park will key in on:

- maintenance of existing facilities;
- re-design and re-development to improve quality and operational effectiveness; and,
- a limited amount of new development to provide additional day use opportunities.

Separation of day use and camper activity is desired where conflicts or operational inefficiencies exist.

9.4 Trails

Increased land-based recreation opportunities will be provided through the improvement of the exisitng trails and development or extension to create new trails.

A fitness/walking trail will be developed between the Whitesand Campground and the falls area.

The Falls Trail will be extended as a loop trail west of the river and upgraded to provide improved access and viewing opportunities.

The Back-40 Trail will be extended to loop into the eastern lowlands portion of the Natural Environment zone.

The Shield Lookout Trail will be closed and allowed to return to a natural state. Alternate hiking/viewing opportunities are provided by the other park trails.

9.5 Visitor Centre

Development of a visitor centre is permitted subject to priority and availability of funds. Its primary function would be as a tourist information and outdoor recreation activity facility used to orient visitors to the natural attributes of the north shore of Lake Superior.

If developed the visitor centre would serve as a nucleus for all visitor service activities and recreational programs. It would be used for indoor activities, housing displays, area tourism promotion, and minor administrative purposes; complemented by self-use trail guides and outdoor displays. The selection from alternative locations, and the design and function analysis for such a facility would be carried out through site and development planning.

As an interim measure, a basic outdoor presentation facility may be established in the development zone.

10.0 IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

Implementation of the management plan will be accomplished through the annual allocation of human and fiscal resources to carry out park operations and management. The intent of this strategy is to provide a logical, ordered approach to guide the implementation of the park management plan over the 20 year planning period.

To be effective and efficient, there needs to be integration between the following components:

- work program planning;
- park operations planning;
- site and development planning;
- visitor services programming; and,
- resource management activity.

Further, there needs to be co-ordination at the program level, and between Ministry programs to place these park implementation priorities in the proper context and identify opportunities for mutual benefit.

Lastly there needs to be communication and cooperation with other public agencies and private groups and individuals to satisfy the intents stated in this plan.

10.1 Capital Projects

Appendix A contains a list of capital projects which have been identified at the present time as necessary to achieve implementation of the management direction contained in this plan. This list will be reviewed and updated annually. Requirements for notice as specified under the Environmental Assessment Act will be met prior to proceeding with any project.

10.2 Budget and Staffing

The current budget allocation provides for a full summer season at the approved minimum park operating and maintenance standards. Opportunities for service contracts will continue to be pursued.

Staffing will be maintained at a level which provides the public with a safe and enjoyable visit. Given the user profile for the park, i.e. the majority of visitors are tourists travelling the north shore route, contact with park staff is a priority item.

10.3 Site and Development Planning

Site planning and facility design is a development prerequisite. This needs to be recognized when carrying out work program planning. In meeting this requirement attention must be given to the stated park goal and objectives, park zoning, and the resource management policies that may apply, e.g. aggregate supply. Development options and design alternatives should be developed which are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and practical to implement.

10.4 Partnerships

Management of Rainbow Falls Provincial Park during the life of this plan will continue to evolve into a shared government and public responsibility. Park visitors will be encouraged to do their part to make the next person's stay as pleasant as their own.

Those person's having property in and adjacent to the park who gain access through the park can assist the Ministry by communicating with the District Manager about any concerns or situations needing attention.

Cooperation with area municipalities and local business, particularly in the areas of, information exchange, marketing and promotion, and tourism development will be sought and nurtured.

Lastly, there will be continued coordination with the Ministries of Tourism and Recreation, Northern Development and Mines, and Environment to take advantage of funding opportunities, explore joint ventures for mutual benefit, and to ensure public health and safety.

11.0 PLAN REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

The Rainbow Falls Provincial Park management plan may be reviewed during the twenty year term as warranted to address issues or changing conditions. A scheduled review would be done to ensure that the content of the plan remains relevant, to evaluate implementation of the plan to date, to adjust the charted course directed by the plan to accommodate changing circumstances. The minimum requirement is for a scheduled review to occur once every ten years.

An unscheduled review may have to be undertaken to evaluate a proposed change in plan direction that represents a significant

departure from the original intent of the plan, or in the event that the plan is rendered obsolete during its term. For both a scheduled and unscheduled review it is the norm to apply the park management planning process to permit adequate analysis of the existing park management plan and to provide sufficient opportunities for public involvement.

Amendments may be made to the management plan which do not alter the overall intent of the plan; i.e. the management direction would remain consistent with the park goal and objectives, the recreation classification, and overall provincial parks policy guidelines. Requests for plan amendment would be processed according to prescribed procedures which require varying levels of documentation and a range of opportunities for public involvement depending on the scope and significance of the changes being proposed.

12.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The general public was advised of the intent to prepare a management plan for Rainbow Falls Provincial Park through newspaper advertisements in January, 1985.

In addition, the two local municipalities and the cottagers who utilize the park for access purposes were notified directly.

The Rainbow Falls Provincial Park preliminary management plan was released to the public in August 1988. Copies of the document were mailed out to interested individuals and groups living and working along the north shore; particularly persons from the communities of Rossport, Schreiber and Terrace Bay. An advertisement was also placed in the local newspaper having circulation servicing the target audience. Interested persons were encouraged to contact the Terrace Bay District Office to obtain a copy of the plan, to discuss the plan proposals with Ministry staff, and to make comment or note their concerns.

A small display was set up in the park gatehouse notifying park visitors of the plan proposals and requesting interested persons to ask for a copy of the preliminary management plan and to make comment and advise Park staff of any concerns.

Public input received following release of the Rainbow Falls Provincial Park preliminary management plan has led to modification of management direction as follows:

- the proposal to close and rehabilitate the Back - 40 boat launch site will not be pursued, (refer to section 8.3).

The persons affected by the proposed closure of the access point made strong and effective representation which caused the Ministry to recognize that continued co-operation with the cottagers in permitting the ongoing use of the facility was the preferred course of action.

Supplementary documentation is on file which :

- summarizes public response;
- provides an analysis of comments and concerns;
- evaluates significance and relevance to management plan direction; and,
- provides the decision rationale for direction to be taken.

The summary of input is available for viewing at the Terrace Bay District Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

REFERENCES

Irwin, T.S., 1982. Towards a Tourism Strategy in Consideration of Existing Facilities and the Future Needs of the North Shore of Lake Superior. University of Waterloo.

Kor, P.S.G. and B. Thacker, 1984. Rainbow Falls Provincial Park Background Information. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Terrace Bay District Land Use Guidelines, 1983.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Provincial Park Day-User Survey Summary Statistical Report, 1983.

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Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies, 1978.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources publications listed above are available for reference at both the Terrace Bay District Office and the North Central Regional (Thunder Bay) Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Appendix A
Capital Projects List

PRIORITY	ESTIMATED COMPLETION COST IN $ 000 *
High	
• replacement of the Falls Trail bridge	35.0
• realignment of access roads	70.0
• boat launch ramp and dock with picnic shelter & playground	40.0
• protection of archaeological sites	2.0
• outdoor presentation facility	7.0
Medium	
• lakefront day use parking and picnic area, Rossport Campground	2.0
• campsite rehabilitation	100.0
• electrically serviced campsites, Rossport Campground	45.0
• electrically serviced campsites, Hewitson Campground	45.0
• picnic/beach area expansion and developments	15.0
Low	
• re-open Back-40 Campground	15.0
• east beach developed for group use with picnic shelter	20.0
• extend/loop Falls Trail	3.0
• visitor centre	150.0

* Note: estimated costs are based on 1989 prices

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